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Researchers and Inventors Honored for Scientific Achievements

IDAHO FALLS -- Awards season made a stop in eastern Idaho tonight, as hundreds of Idaho National Laboratory employees descended on downtown Idaho Falls to celebrate the lab's 2011 scientific and engineering achievements.

INL's 16th Annual Honors Reception highlighted the role of new technology and celebrated dozens of INL inventors who developed and patented new technology that can be or already has been licensed for commercialization.

"Tonight's ceremony is a tribute to the ingenuity, passion and dedication that it takes to confront and solve some of the world's most daunting scientific challenges," said INL Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher. "The employees of Idaho National Laboratory are our most important resource, and I'd like to sincerely congratulate each of this evening's winners."

In all, 56 inventors, 16 developers, five technicians and dozens of individuals were recognized for submitting 138 invention disclosure records, earning 32 patents, filing 10 copyright assertions for software and collecting numerous awards and accomplishments in 2011.

In addition, Grossenbacher handed out four Laboratory Director's Awards and a Technician of the Year award to honor employees who made significant contributions in their research fields in 2011. Tonight's winners included:

- Richard Wright for Exceptional Scientific Achievement
- Carl Stoots for Exceptional Engineering Achievement
- Peter Zalupski for Early Career Exceptional Achievement
- Gus Caffrey for Individual Lifetime Achievement in Science and Technology
- Todd Morris for Technician of the Year

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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